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ACTION: NONE INFO: ALA/BO-2, ALA/MC/D, ALA/PO, ALA/PO/LA,
ALA/SA, ALA/SA/H, ALA/SA/HPB-2, ALA/SA/SW, ALA/SA/SW1, ALA/SER-2,
ALA/SWM, ALA/SWR, NIO/WE, ODPH-H, ODPN-N, ODPN-S, OGI/EC/EA, OGI/IIC/TG,
OOE/EI/PS, OOE/EI/SI, OOE/FR, OOE/WE, PLANFAC-E (), RF, SOV/CS/E/P,
ZCI/OC, ZIAD/ENO, ZIAD/IC, ZSAG/MEB, ZSAG/PPB, ZSAG/SEB, FILE, EUR/F-2,
EUR/RR, LA/CPB-2, LA/OPS, LA/RR, CI/CC, CR/E, D/FBIS-2, IAD/ENO, IAD/IC,
ICS/OHC/EU, NICAG/SP, NICAG/WE, NIO/LA, NIO/PE, OEXA/PAD, OGI/ISI/CF,
SAG/MEB, SAG/PPB, SAG/SEB-3, (26/W)

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2702
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 6025
INFO RUESLZ/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0389
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5966
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 6026
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 04737

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2008

ROME PLEASE PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SOPN, FR
SUBJECT: KLAUS BARBIE RETURNED TO FRANCE: QUESTIONS
- ABOUT ALLEGED US ROLE IN PROTECTING HIM AFTER
- WORLD WAR TWO

1. (C ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. EXPULSION OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE
FROM BOLIVIA AND HIS TRANSFER TO FRENCH CUSTODY SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, HAVE TRIGGERED INTENSE PUBLIC INTEREST AND

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FOR COORDINATION WITH

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EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY FRENCH MEDIA COVERAGE. WHILE MOST REPORTS FOCUS ON ATROCITIES BARBIE COMMITTED WHILE HEAD OF THE GESTAPO IN THE LYON AREA FROM 1943 TO 1944 AND ON THE TREATMENT HE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE IN FRANCE, SOME REPORTS MENTION AN ALLEGED US ROLE IN "PROTECTING" BARBIE FOLLOWING HIS ARREST IN GERMANY AFTER THE WAR. RUMORS THAT BARBIE COLLABORATED WITH THE CIA DURING HIS YEARS IN BOLIVIA HAVE ALSO SURFACED. GIVEN THE EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THIS AFFAIR AND IN VIEW OF VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO PARIS TOMORROW, EMBASSY URGENTLY SEEKS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR VICE PRESIDENT TO USE IN 4:00 P.M. (LOCAL TIME) FEBRUARY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE. IN ORDER TO BRIEF THE VICE PRESIDENT WE NEED A REPLY BY 008 PARIS TIME ON FEB. 8. END SUMMARY

3. ARRIVAL OF KLAUS BARBIE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 5 TOUCHED OFF AN INTENSE FLURRY OF PRESS ACTIVITY AND HAS VIRTUALLY DOMINATED ALL NEWS FOR THE PAST 48 HOURS. BARBIE WAS TRANSFERRED UPON HIS ARRIVAL TO A MILITARY PRISON IN LYON WHERE HE IS BEING HELD UNDER HEAVY GUARD. TWICE CONDEMNED (IN ABSENTIA) BY FRENCH COURTS TO DEATH FOR A VARIETY OF WAR-RELATED CRIMES, BARBIE IS TO BE CHARGED NOW FOR "CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY", NOTABLY THE DEPORTATION OR THE EXECUTION OF THOUSANDS OF FRENCH CIVILIANS IN 1943-44. AMONG HIS VICTIMS WAS FRENCH RESISTANCE LEADER AND POPULAR HERO JEAN MOULIN WHO WAS ARRESTED BY BARBIE IN 1943.

4. WHILE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS DWELT EXTENSIVELY ON HISTORICAL DETAIL AND ON SPECULATION ABOUT THE FORM BARBIE'S TRIAL IS LIKELY TO TAKE, SOME REPORTS HAVE CHARGED THAT THE US EMPLOYED BARBIE AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT FOLLOWING HIS ARREST BY US MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN GERMANY. LE MONDE ARTICLE FEBRUARY 7 REPORTS THAT BARBIE OPERATED AS A US AGENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR TWO IN A VARIETY OF ANTI-COMMUNIST ROLES. AN AP ARTICLE FROM LONDON DATED FEBRUARY 6 QUOTES FORMER FRENCH RESISTANCE LEADER AND PROMINENT JOURNALIST CLAUDE BOURDET SAYING THAT BARBIE WAS A PAID US INFORMANT AND FLED TO SOUTH AMERICA ON THE MONEY HE EARNED. BOTH ARTICLES MENTION THAT US OFFICIALS HINDERED FRENCH ACCESS TO BARBIE

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FROM 1948 TO 1950. BOURDET ALSO SUGGESTS THAT BARBIE AND "HIS PRO-NAZI ORGANIZATION" IN SOUTH AMERICA CONTINUED TO COOPERATE WITH US INTELLIGENCE WHILE BARBIE WAS IN BOLIVIA.

5. THE SAME AP ARTICLE CITES A FORMER US COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, ERHARD DABRINGHAUS, WHO REPORTEDLY TOLD NBC TELEVISION FEBRUARY 5 THAT BARBIE WAS PAID BY THE US FOR INFORMATION ON FORMER NAZIS AND THAT ORDERS WERE GIVEN NOT TO DIVULGE THAT THE US KNEW OF BARBIE'S WHEREABOUTS.

6. GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN THIS AFFAIR, WE BELIEVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE US POSITION VIS-A-VIS BARBIE COULD ARISE DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PARIS FEBRUARY 8-9. EMBASSY REQUESTS URGENT GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON RESPONSES TO FOLLOWING POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

-- DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE RETURN OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE TO FRANCE?

-- CAN YOU EXPLAIN REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES EMPLOYED BARBIE AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT AFTER WORLD WAR TWO AND HINDERED EFFORTS BY FRENCH OFFICIALS TO LOCATE HIM?

-- CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE CIA OR OTHER US INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED TO USE BARBIE'S SERVICES WHEN BARBIE WAS IN BOLIVIA?

-- IS THE USG INVESTIGATING THESE ACCUSATIONS?

-- WILL RESULTS OF USG INVESTIGATIONS BE MADE

ROME PLEASE PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: SCRA, FR

SUBJECT: KLAUS BARBIE RETURNED TO FRANCE: QUESTIONS PUBLIC OR COMMUNICATED TO THE GCF? GALBRAITH

END OF MESSAGE

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